Medical Center

50 Irving Street, NW.
Washington D.C. 20422

Veterans Administration

In Reply Refer To:

April 28, 1988

John V. O'Neil
Director Oxford House Inc.
4911 Aurora Drive
Kensington, Md. 20895

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

We want to personally express our appreciation for the great work that you have done in providing a safe place of recovery for those alcoholics and substance abusers who find their way into the Oxford House system. The Oxford House movement, which was born of necessity, is certainly the right solution at the right time in terms of local and national needs. Here at the Washington V.A. Medical Center we deal with substance abusing veterans through a thirty day inpatient treatment program. One of the most difficult and painful aspects of our job is to see a man begin to change his way of looking at life and himself and then see him return to his old living situation because he has no other alternatives. Due to lack of funds the V.A. recently cut back its own halfway house program leaving a real void in the total recovery of our patients. As you realize the key to success is to have the patient completely change their lifestyle. This is difficult when there is no positive living situation available after discharge.

The Oxford House offers a remarkably effective and cost efficient solution to this problem. We have noticed that many veterans from our program Veterans Administration Narcotic and Alcohol Treatment Association (VANATA) have done extremely well when they have been able to find a placement in an Oxford House following discharge.

We support your efforts to expand the scope of the Oxford House operation and know that such expansion will greatly enhance the number of successful recoveries from all modes of substance abuse.

Sincerely,

Irfan Kucukcetin M.D.
Chief Drug Treatment Program

Peter P. Devlin Ph.D.
Asst. Chief Drug Treatment Program